

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 15883

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: U.S.G. NARCOTICS OFFICIALS MEET NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: MEXICO 15438

1. AMBASSADOR HOSTED LUNCHEON DECEMBER 13 ON OCCASION
OF VISIT TO MEXICO BY AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE(S/NM)
AND DEA ADMINISTRATOR PETER B. BENSINGER, TO PROVIDE IN-
FORMAL SETTING FOR MEETING WITH NEW MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL
OSCAR FLORES-SANCHEZ. FLORES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MANUAL
ROSALES-MIRANDA (FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL) AND
SAMUEL ALBA-LEYVA (ACTING SECOND DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL).
ALSO ATTENDING FROM EMBASSY WERE MINISTER-COUNSELOR THOMPSON,
ACTING NARCOTICS ATTACHE KIERE, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE
OFFICER BERNAL AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT MCLAUGHLIN.

2. DURING COURSE OF LUNCHEON AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS
FLORES:
(A) INFORMED GROUP THAT GOM INTENDS TO RESUME ERADICATION
PROGRAM SOON AFTER JANUARY ONE. FLORES PERCEIVES NO
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PROBLEM TO CONTINUED USE OF HERBICIDES. (COMMENT:
AVIATION TRAINING ADVISOR, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM
CULIACAN AND CHOIX, REPORTS THAT SPRAYING OPERATIONS
WERE STILL UNDERWAY AT CHOIX ON DECEMBER TEN.)
(B) STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY PROBLEMS WHICH
WOULD REQUIRE IMMEDIATE U.S.G. ASSISTANCE.

(C) STATED THAT HE INTENDS TO NAME FULL TIME CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, FOR WHOM HE IS NOW SEARCHING, WHO MUST BE "ABLE, EFFECTIVE, AND HONEST".

(D) ANNOUNCED THAT, PENDING ABOVE APPOINTMENT, HE HAS NAMED SECOND DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBA-LEYVA TO SERVE AS INTERIM COORDINATOR.

(E) CONFIRMED THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO PROBLEM" WITH CONTINUED DEA PARTICIPATION IN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WITH AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL, AND AGREED THAT JANUARY SEVENTEEN WOULD BE SUITABLE TARGET DATE FOR ARRIVAL OF TDY PERSONNEL.

(F) ENDORSED CONCEPT OF TARGETING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS ON FEW SELECTED MAJOR TRAFFICKING NETWORKS AND PROMISED COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

(G) ANNOUNCED ARREST MORNING OF LUNCHEON OF JORGE OMAR VILLALOBOS, A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, (MINISTERIO PUBLICO, PART OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OWN ORGANIZATION), IN TIJUANA FOR INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. FLORES STATED THAT HE INTENDED TO CLEAN HOUSE "FROM TOP TO BOTTOM; NOT FROM BOTTOM TO TOP".

(H) AGREED THAT BETTER NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE IS KEY TO EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT WITH U.S.G. ASSISTANCE.

(I) ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF FERNANDO BAEZE-MELENDZ AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER (POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY ALEJANDRO GERTZ-MANERO), NOTING THAT HE WOULD HANDLE ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

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3. FLORES LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO DESCRIPTIONS OF JANUS AND FUGITIVE PROGRAMS AND SEEMED INTERESTED IN PROSECUTIONS BASED ON EXHCANGE OF EVIDENCE.

4. COMMENT: FLORES PROJECTED IMAGE OF STRAIGHT-ARROW, HARD-LINE AND HARD CHARGER WHO IS INTERESTED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW OF HIS APPOINTMENT "WELL IN ADVANCE" AND IMPLIED THAT HE HAD DECLINED MORE IMPORTANT POSTS SUCH AS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BECAUSE HE FELT HIMSELF TOO OLD TO TAKE ON "ENORMOUS" TASKS. HE SPOKE FLUENT ENGLISH THROUGHOUT LUNCHEON AND DEMONSTRATED AN EXTRA-ORDINARY KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. HISTORY. PRESSED TO COMMENT ON THIS KNOWLEDGE, HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD TAKEN SPEED-READING COURSE AT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND READS ONE BOOK A NIGHT.

5. OUT OF FLORES' HEARING, ROSALES-MIRANDA COMMENTED ON NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DYNAMISM AND NOTED THAT WORKING

HOURS HAVE CHANGED. FLORES EXPECTS HIS SENIOR STAFF
TO WORK FROM ABOUT 1000 TO 1500 AND FROM 1800 TO 2000,
AND HAS TOLD THEM THAT IF THEY CAN'T FINISH THEIR WORK
IN THOSE HOURS, THEY ARE INEFFICIENT.
JOVA

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